

### *Amendments to the Specification*

The following amendments to the specification are to be made.

Please replace pending paragraph [0007] with the following amended paragraph:

Accordingly, an anti-drool mechanism suitable for use in an injection molding system using a retractable machine nozzle is provided herein. An injection molding machine has a machine nozzle for injecting a melt stream into a manifold. Between the machine nozzle and the manifold is an anti-drool mechanism ~~located within the machine platen~~, which includes a melt inlet configured to engage with the machine nozzle, a melt passage, and a fixed pin disposed within the melt passage. The fixed pin is sized so that the melt stream will flow around the pin. The fixed pin has a head configured to be received within the machine nozzle. An actuated shut-off collar is also disposed within the melt passage, surrounding the pin. The shut-off collar includes a sealing surface that is configured to cut off the flow of the melt stream into the melt passage and subsequently into the manifold melt channel when the sealing surface engages with a coordinating sealing surface on the head of the fixed pin.

Please replace pending paragraph [0014] with the following amended paragraph:

Referring first to FIG. 4, one example of an injection molding system 400 having a sprue bushing 424 within a back plate ~~machine platen~~ 444 is shown. The injection molding system includes a machine nozzle 402, which introduces a melt stream under pressure into the injection molding system via sprue bushing 424. From sprue bushing 424, melt flows into a manifold melt channel 105 provided in a hot runner manifold 104. In the injection molding system 400 depicted, manifold 104 allows the melt stream to be distributed through manifold outlets 434 into melt channels 427 provided in respective nozzles 426. Nozzles 426 are positioned within nozzle cutouts 438 of a mold plate 428. Each nozzle is in fluid communication with a mold cavity 430 via a mold gate 440 so that the melt stream may be injected through nozzle melt channel 427 and nozzle tip 437 into the mold cavities 430.

Please replace pending paragraph [0015] with the following amended paragraph:

Referring now to FIG. 1, one embodiment of an anti-drool mechanism 106 of an injection molding system 100 is shown. As described above, injection molding system 100 includes a machine nozzle 102, which introduces a melt stream into the injection molding system. In this embodiment, machine nozzle 102 engages anti-drool mechanism 106 positioned partially within a back plate machine platen 144. Anti-drool mechanism 106 cooperates with a sprue bushing 124 to control the flow of the melt stream into manifold 104. Manifold 104 then distributes the melt stream through a manifold melt channel 105 to a variety of mechanisms, including but not limited to a hot runner system, an injection nozzle, a mold, a stack mold, or a combination of these elements.